The Organizer.

VOL. V. OXFORD, MISS., AUGUST 18, 1849. NO. 17.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED

AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI,

BY THE

REQUEST OF THE TRUSTEES,

AND

OF THE SOCIETIES OF THE UNIVERSITY,

JULY TWELFTH, 1849.

BY HON. ALEX. M. CLAYTON,

President of Board of Trustees.

(*Conclusion.*)

Other governments have labored for the diffusion of learning among their people. Scotland, Prussia, Germany and France, and many of the States of our Union, have made legal provision for the education of their children. They have acted upon the wise principle that it is not the extent of territory, nor the fertility of the soil, nor number of population which make up thy wealth and strength of a State. All these are but accessories. The virtue and intelligence of the people constitute the true greatness of the State.

Two of the first people that entered upon the system of common school education, were Scotland and the then infant Colony of Massachusetts, more than two centuries ago. Those countries are by nature cold, barren and inhospitable. But they have reared a shrewd, hardy, ingenious race of sons, often of capacious intellect and comprehensive knowledge. They have the most universally educated population in the world. The have made their bleak and rock-bound hills bloom as the gardens of Italy. They have sent school-masters over the globe. Some one was telling Dr. Johnson of the noble prospects, and magnificent scenery of Scotland—the sturdy old Englishman replied: "The finest prospect a Scotchman ever sees, is the high road to London." This was at once high praise to the efficiency of Scotch education, and a strong censure on English neglect in this particular. He had often seen that road lead the Scotchman to fame and to fortune. And thus we often see the enterprising Yankee, formed in the Yankee school-house, bearing away in our midst, the richest rewards, from the more luxurious and indolent sons of the South. The South produces the staple which moves the work-shops, the machinery, the merchant fleets, the commerce of the world. But its riches take wings unto themselves and flee away. They find their abiding places in the marble palaces, and granite store-rooms of the merchants of the East, and of the lords of the loom and the spindle. What England could not do in the days of Lord Chatham by force, our brethren do "by insinuation."—They scarcely let us make a hob nail for ourselves. The cause of all this lies in the Yankee school-house. They out *calculate* us. To battle them successfully we must stand upon the same platform, and use the same weapons. We must build school-houses. In the days of Charles II. *gentlemen* rarely learnt Arithmetic; that race of gentlemen, I fear, still have descendants living in the Southern portion of these United States.—But I trust that day and that race are fast drawing to a close; and that the dawn of a better era is now appearing.

YOUNG GENTLEMEN OF THE PHI SIGMA AND HERMEAN SOCIETIES:—

THIS is the close of the first session of the Institution. No ancient monuments surround you. No mighty spirits of the past, the guardian genii of the place watch over you. No hallowed recollections of other days—of former trials or of former triumphs cluster around you. You have no past to look to, beyond the exercises of the present occasion. These show that you have begun nobly, but this is not enough. It is the end which crowns the work. The future is all yours. Remember your position, and the responsibilities which attach to you. You are the framers of your own fortune and reputation—and not of your own alone. The University must long bear the character which you give to it. At the time you matriculated, its history was a blank; from that time its history is a record of your acts.

The members of an University are pioneers in the field of science. They are expected to explore the beaten path of those who have gone before them, and to extend still further the sphere of knowledge. They must not fall below the standard which this age of unexampled activity in every department of literature and learning exacts. They must be prepared at all points, to stand their ground in the great contest for intellectual distinction among men. Your societies formed for mutual improvement, are valuable auxiliaries to this end. These societies, clubs or associations have been favorite modes of intercourse and instruction, with literary men in all ages. Great ideas are often generated in the study or the closet, but they have to stand the ordeal of the world. They are best prepared for this trial by the scrutiny of our fellows—of those who are engaged in similar pursuits and similar investigations.—Ideas are compared—conclusions are tried—their accuracy established, or their fallacy exposed. The judgments of men rest upon opinion in regard to most subjects, and wisdom distrusts its own deductions, until confirmed by the decision of others. Associated wealth often accomplishes what is beyond the reach of individual means, and associated talent stimulates to the highest exertions of intellect, and to the production of the most perfect creations of the human mind. It is this truth which leads nations to form deliberative assemblies, to consider and provide for the common weal.

It is a frequent remark, that men of genius appear in clusters. The Augustan age—the Elizabethan age—the age of Queen Anne—and our own Revolution era have all been celebrated as eras fruitful in talents and learning. The reason is obvious. The great men of the age reflect light around them. They impress each other. Contact and collision produce emulation. They discipline the mind, and increase the stores of knowledge. There is mutual action and reaction, and all are improved in the process. In some eyes, a great name stands out, in unchallenged pre-eminence before all others, and retains that superiority in all after time. Shakspeare, Bacon, Newton and Washington are of this class. But these are only shining exceptions from the general rule. Emulation is the great incentive to noble deeds. Pitt was roused into rivalry by Fox—and Napoleon provoked Willington as an antagonist.—The highest exertions of intellect are made under the strongest pressure of emulation; and nothing keeps emulation alive so much, as generous competition with our fellows.

This age is eminently utilitarian in its character, and rigidly discountenances all that does not approach to this standard.—But it often happens that what appears to be merely speculative, conceals a principle of incalculable utility in its scope. The monk who invented gunpowder, did not know that he was preparing a change in the entire system of war. He who first observed the polarity of the magnet, had but little foresight into the practical uses it was to subserve. Yet that opened a new era in navigation, and enabled the mariner to traverse the pathless ocean, and to spread his sails in seas hitherto unknown.—He who first noticed the expansive force of steam exemplified, by boiling water throwing the lid from a kettle, little thought that that principle was to pervade every department of life.—That it was to lift the balloon into the atmosphere—to propel the machinery of countless manufactories—to drive vessels across the ocean, and to drag burthens of immense weight at race-horse speed alike over hills and mountains and valleys. He who drew the lightning from Heaven little dreamed that it was soon to be made the medium of instantaneous intercouse from one end of the continent to the other. All this demonstates that our studies should not be too exclusively confined to the ostensibly useful, because the speculative often leads to the most vast practical results. All knowledge is useful. Every idea that is planted in the mind, increases its capacity, and that which at first may seem but as a grain of mustard seed, may soon be developed into a mighty system of grandeur and usefulness. Yet it is not wise to distract the mind by too great a variety of studies. The sciences are social and flourish best in proximity with each other: they are all more or less allied. But some leading pursuit should be selected, and other studies kept subordinate to this and made subsequent to it. A free interchange of thought in regard to your respective studies makes each partake somewhat, in the labors of each, and all profit by the commerce.

Another obvious tendency of your societies is to improve their members as speakers. Practice is absolutely necessary to make a ready debate, or an eloquent orator. The springs of eloquence have a deeper source than mere practice, and perhaps no one can be truly an orator whose lips are not touched with the hallowed fire of genius. Yet even this highest gift of nature is useless, unless improved by the habit of public speaking. Nowhere is eloquence so much prized as with us, and nowhere does it lead to such rewards and results. Its true sphere is in a free government. Fame and fortune wait upon its steps, and men render it an homage paid to no other intellectual effort.—Eloquence is power of the highest order. For the time it reigns supreme in the hearts of its hearers, and exercises an absolute control over their minds. "Science, and poetry, and thought are its lamps." It is the guardian of these golden keys, of which it has been beautifully said:—

> "This can unlock the gates of joy;
> Of horror that, and thrilling fears,
> Or ope the source of sympathetic tears."

It moves a multitude as with one will, transfuses its feeling into their minds, and bears them whither it pleaseth. But this highest reach of power is beyond the province of the mere debater. A field wide, however, and full of utility is open to him. His office is to convince the understanding. Yet he often rises into regions that are consecrated to eloquence. The heat of debate often strikes out the finest thoughts—mind kindles in the collision with mind, and a stream of light marks the pathway of discussion. Who would not toil, to gain the talisman, which gives to its owner an influence over mind, more potent than the sceptre of the monarch.

Nothing great in human affairs is ever achieved without labor. The vast cities of commerce—the teeming products of agriculture—the monuments of genius, of eloquence and of poetry—the discoveries of science—the trophies of war are all the results of labor. Not the fitful labor of impulse and excitement, relaxed as soon as the paroxism is over, but labor patient, enduring, and guided by the application of proper means to proper ends. Such is the labor which leads to success. It is such labor mental or bodily, which in all ages has made men great, and nations prosperous and happy, and which makes the earth smile as a new Paradise. The past is but a history of its deeds, and the future has no hope or promise but in its efforts. Look on the public men who are now distinguished in the councils of the nation, and with few exceptions they have been nurtured in the school of poverty, tried by early misfortune and strengthened by difficulties overcome and obstacles subdued. They have labored with patience and perseverance. They bided their time. Opportunity came as it comes always to the brave and stout heart. Each bright example thus presented to the world, becomes a token and an assurance, that the same course of conduct will lead to the same happy results. Such lessons should not be in vain.

The inequalities in the conditions of life proceed principally from difference of education. In infancy all start from the same point, but from different degrees of culture reach very different ends. The Indian warrior, with his bow and arrows, is not less a match for the white man, with all the materials of modern warfare, than is the untaught and unlettered man, for one who has been trained and educated. Upon the eve of battle how cautious is the soldier, to see that his arms and equipage are in the best order; why be less careful in the great battle of life, where so much depends upon preparation. The more broad you here lay the foundation, the more solid and more durable will be the edifice you hereafter rear. But even while striving to amass the treasures of wisdom, it should always be borne in mind, that bright as genius and learning may be, the pure ray of virtue is still brighter.

To those of you who may intend to enter one of the learned professions, permit me to say in the language of one who was fully competent to judge, and who had practical demonstration of the truth of what he said: "That your success in life will depend principally upon three things. First upon a great and constantly increasing knowledge of your profession; secondly upon an industrious discharge of its duties, and thirdly upon the preservation of your moral character." But in the professions there must be no pause—no loitering by the way side, but a steady and continued progression. This truth is nowhere more forcibly or more beautifully enforced, than by the bard of Avon, the immortal Shakspeare:—

> "Perseverance
> Keeps honor bright, to have done, is to hang
> Quite out of fashion, like a rusty nail,
> In monumental mockery. Take the instant way;
> For honor travels in a strait so narrow,
> Where one but goes abreast. Keep then the path;
> For emulation hath a thousand sons,
> That one by one pursue. If you give way,
> Or hedge aside from the direct forth right,
> Like to an entered tide, they will rush by,
> And leave you hindmost—
> Or like a gallant horse, fall'n front rank,
> Lie there for pavement to the abject rear,
> O'errun and trampled."

These are the precepts of one who of all the men who ever lived, might best have relied on his genius alone, unaided by labor or by learning. It is by following such precepts that men trample upon impossibilities, and learn that to the resolute mind there can be no failure.

In a few years the men of to-day—those who conduct the business of life, and manage the affairs of the State, will pass from the scene. Shall their places be filled by immigrants and by strangers, or by the true hearted sons of Mississippi, who feel her fortune under all changes, and partake of all her joys and sorrows? Consult your minds for the answer, not when listening to the syren song of ease, nor when reposing in the Castle of Indolence, but when giving ear to the promptings of a noble sense of duty, and to the aspirations after the loftiest sphere of excellence. Record the response upon the tablets of your hearts, as the teaching of your own better nature, and the foreshadowing of events to come, and let the history of your after years record it as prophecy fulfilled. The dreams of youthful ambition are often realized, because they inspire the very qualities necessary to bring them to pass. Men conquer when they think they can. Resolve to do your whole duty. Let your acts second your resolution. Bear the standard of human progress and improvement in the front rank of the age. And when in future years, some one may perchance ask this University, your alma mater, for the evidences of her usefulness, let her be able to point to the State and National councils—to the bar and to the bench—to the labors in the field of science—to the distinguished in every virtuous walk of life, and say: "There amongst the foremost and best of these, you may see my sons. These are the fruits of my labors, and the evidences of my usefulness."

To Be or Not to Be.

We have directed the attention of Southern men of all parties to the fact that the Washington Republic, the government organ whose principal editor is a southern man, confidential friend of Gen. Taylor, and the reputed author of the second Allison letter—will not answer the question of the Union whether or not the President will sign the Wilmot Proviso should it be passed by Congress. This is poor consolation to those Southern men, who voted for Gen. Taylor because he was a "Louisiana Slaveholder and hence bound to prevent the enactment of that iniquitous scheme.

But another leading and influential whig organ does not hesitate in answering the Union's interrogatory—an interrogatory concerning a matter fraught with consequences of vital import to the South. This paper is the Philadelphia Sun. Here is its candid avowal that the Proviso *will be sanctioned by General Taylor 'unless he violates the pledges given to the people.'*

GEN'L TAYLOR ON SLAVERY.—The Washington Union put the enquiry direct to the Republic—"In the event of the passage of a law containing the Wilmot Proviso, or any similar provision will Gen. Taylor veto it, or will he approve it?"

This query is unnecessary if the Union has marked Gen. Taylor's position. If Congress should pass the Wilmot Proviso or any similar provision, *Gen. Taylor would sign it.* If not, he violates the pledge given to the people. And again, if Congress should pass a law allowing slavery in New Mexico and California, *he will sign that.* He is bound not to oppose the wishes of the people, as expressed through their Representatives. Neither the North nor the South can expect legislation from the President; but either and both have a right to expect that he will not oppose his veto to the action of the government since its establishment has shown it to be constitutional.

From the Southern Cultivator.

Another Great Discovery—Sensitive Glass.

We had occasion some time since to say something about the Druids and their worship. The gentleman who is getting up and arranging the mysteries and ceremonies for the Druidical exhibition, is well known to us as a practical chemist, but as he does not wish to appear before the public until the proper time we withhold his name, but take liberty of speaking of the wonderful process of science.

The person alluded to spent some weeks in Pittsburg in endeavoring to produce the magical glass of the Druids, but did not succeed. The experiments have been continued here, and the Druidish musical tones, from tubes of glass, are perfect and make sweet harmony. But the sensitive glass goblets are the most wonderful. It was a secret of the Arch-Druid to make his glass sensitive to poison, and tradition says that his food and beverages were submitted to a test in those goblets and if they contained poison the glass would break. One of these glasses was shown us yesterday, in which water was forced, and it remained as sound as any other tumbler, but on adding a little poison, the glass flew at once in several pieces. This is something more mysterious than has been exhibited yet, and we can say in all confidence that the exhibition will be one of remarkable scientific wonder.—*Cincinnati Commercial.*

We have no doubt but when this takes place it will be a remarkable "scientific wonder." But where did the editor of the Commercial learn that the Druids used glass vessels.—We have always had the belief that they were composed of horn and shell. "Come to the feast of shells, Ossian." The greatest scientific feat about the above glass, is its knowledge of poison, for assuredly their natures are so different that they cannot act upon it alike.

MORE OF HEUDEBERT.—A Washington letter-writer tells the following "good 'un" of the way things are managed by the appointing powers of the "no party" administration. The 'naturalized Frenchman' can be no other than Heudebert:

"A few weeks ago, a naturalized Frenchman came to the city and applied for the situation of petty postmaster in one of the Southern towns. He called on the postmaster General, who plainly told him that he could not be accommodated. He gave Mr. Collamer a piece of his mind, and afterwards informed an ex-member of Congress of his non success. The ex-member persuaded him to strike high—for a foreign mission—intending his advice as a joke. The Frenchman was in earnest and said that he would. the next day, see Mr. Clayton. This he did, and represented to him that he had made many sacrifices for the Whig party, and now wanted a foreign mission. Mr. Clayton informed him that two consulships were vacant—Lyons and Bordeaux—and asked him which he would take. The Frenchman, being a native of Bordeaux, said that he would go there, but this was engaged and he readily jumped at Lyons.—This he got, and is on the eve of departure.

ATTEMPTED NEGRO INSURRECTION AT ST. MARY'S, GEORGIA.—We have heard to-day, of an attempted insurrection among the negroes in the neighborhood of St. Mary's Georgia. It is said about 300 of them intended seizing the steamboat Wm. Gaston, and carrying her to Nassau, New Providence. Owing to a delay in the arrival of the boat, their scheme was detected.—Numerous arrests were made.—*Waukilla (Fla,) Times, July 18th.*

☞Sir Robert Peel lately made a speech upon free trade, in which he said that he had been half converted to the unqualified principle of reform in 1842, when his bill took effect, and that the remaining half of his protection scruples gave way in 1845, so that he applied the principle without reservation in the tariff of 1846.—The Whigs ousted him, but retained his policy.

OREGON.—A census of the inhabitants of Oregon has recently been taken, and it shows that the number of the population is 8,962, including foreigners, who number upwards of 300. There are, according to the census, 2,509 voters; but in consequence of the absence of many at the mines, the votes at the next election will be much reduced. Gov. Lane has issued a proclamation, fixing the number of members of Council and House of Representatives to which each county is entitled, and ordering the election to be held for them and for delegates to Congress on the first Monday in June next. There are six candidates for Congress in the field.

The rage for gold hunting continued as strong as ever at last advices, and both the newspapers published in Oregon had suspended operations in consequence of it.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE.—The whig press having disgusted all by calling the man who boards in the White House, the "Second Washington," now call him the "President of the people!" An examination of the vote given last fall would disgust those who give Mr. Automation Zachary this Cognomen. He is a great minority President, nothing else. *Only* 180,000 more votes were cast *against* him for the "President of the people." He was elected by the plurality rule of counting. Rhode Island was the only New England State that gave him a majority—the other five gave majorities against him. The South Western States only gave him majorities. The East, West, North and South voted against him. Through accident he is what is *called* President, but in reality is only a member of the cabinet of the United States.

NEW ROUTE TO NEW ORLEANS.—We learn from various quarters that the merchants of New York and New Orleans are seriously talking of building a Road (if such a work be practicable) across the northern part of Florida, the objects of which would be to shorten the sea route between the two cities about one thousand miles, and escape the dangers of the Florida reefs. The idea of making a canal across the Peninsula was broached a number of years ago, but was finally abandoned, owing, for many reasons, to its impracticability. It is alleged that the harbors of St. Mary's, on the Atlantic, and Cedar Keys, on the Gulf, would be suitable places for the termini of the proposed road; and it has been ascertained that a road like the one proposed can be constructed on exceedingly reasonable terms.—The distance across the peninsula at the point designated is one hundred and forty miles. The construction of the proposed road cannot but be worthy of the consideration of all who are interested in the intercourse between the great *entrepot* of New Orleans and the Atlantic States, promising, as the project does, to bring the Empire City and the Crescent City within an easy four day's journey.—*Nat. Intelligencer.*

When a sweet girl has said no the sugar, she is a species of lemonade.